

## PROF. ING. FRANTIŠEK ČECH, DrSc. – SIXTY YEARS OLD



*The intensive development of geology and prospection for deposits of coal, oil and natural gas are inseparably connected with the personality of Prof. Ing. František Čech, DrSc., who in the year 1989 in full vigour lives to be 60.*

*Prof. Čech was born on 14th of December 1929 in Skalica, district of Senica. He finished his basic education and graduated from secondary school in his birthplace. In the year 1949 he successfully sought admission to the Faculty of Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava where he started to study geology. The hydrocarbon deposits occurring in his native county which had interested him since his youth influenced also the course of his studies. In the year 1949 he was sent to the Geological Faculty of the "Institut petrol si gaze" in Bucharest where he graduated in 1954 as "engineer of geology".*

*After his return from Romania he worked first in the Czechoslovak Oil Enterprises in Hodonín and in a short time he was accepted for postgradual study at the Faculty of Sciences, specializing in geology of mineral resources and caustobioliths. In the year 1959 he obtained the degree of "Candidate of Sciences" (PhD) after defending the thesis "Geological structure of the western part of the sub-Vihorlat coal basin".*

*From this time on, Prof. Čech's activities centred on teaching which he was able connect to a great extent with research. In the years 1960–61 he was sent to Argentina where he worked as an expert on the survey of cement resources in the region of Zapala (province Neuquen); in the years 1961–64 he worked as an expert for the Ministry of Education and Culture in Cuba, his activities resulting in the foundation of the Geological Faculty of the University of Havana. Except teaching – he lectured here on the geology of mineral deposits and caustobioliths – he devoted his attention also to research – he studied the deposits of fire-resistant clays and garnets from garnet amphibolites from the locality Valle de dos Hermanos.*

*Prof. Čech habilitated as docent in the year 1965 with the work "Clay deposits of Cuba". In the year 1970 he payed an 8-month working visit to the Universidad de Chile lecturing on mineral deposits; in the years 1972–74 he worked again in Chile, with the government organisation Corporación de Fomento y de la Producción, on the problems of ores, nonmetallic mineral deposits and caustobioliths.*

*He acquired the degree of Doctor of Geological Sciences in the year 1980 on the basis of the thesis "The relation of fuel deposits to the deep structure of the Pannonian Basin and the Carpathian Arc".*

*In the year 1981 he was named Professor of the Department of Geology of Deposits at the Faculty of Sciences of the Comenius University.*

*The scope of pedagogical activities of Prof. Čech is considerable. Since 1954 he was in charge of practical excercises, mapping courses and he read lectures on the geology of mineral deposits, of nonmetallic mineral deposits of Czechoslovakia, on deposits of caustobioliths in*

Czechoslovakia, an introduction to mining and drilling technology. He supervises pre-graduate and graduate field work. He is a member of the board for state examinations, the chairman of the State Committee for Doctorate Examinations in the specialization geochemistry, basic geology and geology of deposits, the chairman of the Board for Defending Candidate (PhD) Theses in the specialization applied geology and applied geophysics, a member of the Board for Defending Doctorate Theses in the specialization geology and applied geophysics. He is the co-author of two university textbooks and the author of university textbooks in Spanish which were published during his stay in Cuba.

The lectures of Prof. Ing. František Čech, DrSc. have high scientific standard, they are modern and based on the latest knowledge of the world science. In his lectures he makes use of his vast practical experience gained during his scientific and research activities at home and abroad. His style, his knowledge of foreign languages and his friendly attitude towards students make his lectures very informative, well-liked, leading the young people to strive for a high scientific standard, to patriotism, morality and industry.

The activities of Prof. Ing. F. Čech, DrSc. in science and research are abundant and closely related to the State Plan of Basic Research. The work of Prof. Čech is centred on the problems of the geology of nonmetallic mineral deposits, especially of coal, oil and natural gas, not only in our country but also abroad.

The scientific and research work of Prof. Čech is also very topical, since it helps to solve the problems of energy resources in Czechoslovakia. Since 1957 he has been continually in charge of the Project II-4-7/7 of the State Plan of Basic Research – “Research of Caustobolites in Western Carpathians”. As the leader of the project “Study of Tertiary Coal Basins in Western Carpathians” he contributed considerably to the complex geological, coal-petrological and geochemical evaluation of Slovak coal basins. Very valuable is also his participation in the compilation of maps of nonmetallic mineral resources, as the author and co-author of the map sheets Vienna, Bratislava, Nové Zámky and Nitra.

The studies of Prof. Čech concerning the deep structure of the Pannonian Basin and the Carpathian Arc as well as the distribution of the deposits of coal, oil and natural gas are very valuable not only for Czechoslovak geology but for all regions of the Carpathian-Balcan system. The practical and scientific importance of the obtained results exceeds the boundaries of the Carpathian-Balcan system and they affected the prospection and survey of fuel deposits in all world.

The results of the scientific work of Prof. Čech have been presented not only in 70 specialized publications and 3 monographies, but also in various reports, reviews, expert opinions and lectures on numerous conferences, and symposia here and abroad (e.g. Moscow, Kiev, Bucharest, Madrid, Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Mexico, Tampico etc.).

Organizational activities are also an important part of the work of Prof. František Čech. Besides political functions he worked as a member of the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Sciences of the Comenius University, as the chairman of the Committee for Science and Research of the Faculty of Sciences, as the chairman of the Editorial Committee of the Fac. Sci., the chairman of the Library Committee, the leader of the Geological Section, and in other functions. From the year 1976 to 1981 he was the vicedean for science and research at the Faculty of Sciences, and since 1982 he is the director of the Geological Institute of the Comenius University. Last but not least, it is necessary to mention his organizational work abroad, especially in connection with the foundation of the Geological Faculty in Havana and his management of the geological survey in Latin America.

His devoted and abundant pedagogical, scientific and organizational activities earned him numerous acknowledgements. In the year 1979 Prof. Čech was awarded the Gold Medal of

the Faculty of Sciences and the Silver Medal of the Comenius University. Since 1984 he is the holder of the Gold Medal of the Comenius University. In 1984 he was named Merited Worker of the Oil and Gas Industry and in 1985 Merited Worker of the Slovak Geological Office. His teaching efforts gained him in 1984 the title Exemplary Teacher. In 1985 he became the Honourable Member of the Czechoslovak Society for Mineralogy and Geology at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague.

The anniversary of this important Slovak geologist – Prof. Ing. František Čech, DrSc. – is in this year remembered not only by hundreds of geology students to whom he during many years conveyed his knowledge, but also by a great number of colleagues and friends which he gained, thanks to his gay, kind-hearted and optimistic nature, in all world. The scientific problems which he solved will long in the future constitute the basis of our knowledge of the geology of carbohydrates and they will serve the next generation of scientists as an example of patient, systematic and honest work. We are glad to say that Prof. Čech, in spite of his age of sixty, is still full of vigour and that he will continue his extensive scientific, pedagogical and organizational activities. The Editorial Board of the journal *Geologický Zborník* would like to join the geological public in wishing him good health, contentment and many further successes for the benefit of Slovak geology.

M. Harman

Translated by K. Janáková

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